

Questions & Answers.
PLASTER AND ASHES.
Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:
I have been a reader of the *Ploughman* for
many years and never asked any questions,
but now I want to ask about using plaster or gyp-
sum. How much to put on the acre so it
will do some good? and if it will do to put it
on the top of the ash bed?
Yours truly,
J. B. B. B.

Yours truly,
West Deptford, N. J. 1364, 1876.

harm. Fifty bushels to the acre is a
very common allowance.—[Ed.]

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

CALIFORNIA.

FARMING AND FARMING ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

BY **LYSANDER S. RICHARDS.**

NUMBER II.

Italian gardens in the mountain and mining towns of California, are quite a feature. I cannot call to mind a single instance where

the American. The Italians use some thirty kinds of common barley manure to one acre. The entire grain is cultivated in one year. When one crop is gathered, the soil is left fallow for a year, and from month to month through the summer, various crops are raised upon the same spot. All kinds of vegetables that grow in the east are raised here. The grapes are treated in this way. Three or four are planted about two feet apart, near where are sunk three bean poles, and the vines are tied together, on which the vines are allowed to grow. I have seen them *run up* some eight feet, and this exposed to the sun and wind rapidly, and the clusters of grapes during summer, all grapes depend upon irrigation for moisture, hence ditches are dug from some stream or central ditch, and turned upon the grapes in little grooves, the growers avoid walking upon the vines rapidly. Twice a day the ditch is opened, being closed the rest of the day.

Fruit trees ripen early. Fig trees produce three crops a year. Strawberry trees ripen early in July; so do apples, water-melon, pears, plums, nectarines. Sweet water grapes ripen in August, and during my visit to this country the season was very backward. Very early pears were ripe the first of August. The hillsides are covered with onions. On the foot hills of the mountains

cherries, but flat, and the tree and leaf are similar to the peach. Black walnut is grown in the yards, and the nut looks like the English walnut, so does the pinnatifid leaf. The fig tree is beautiful, the leaf very large, representing somewhat the appearance of the grape leaf, only twice as large, with the middle lobe more pointed. A very remarkable feature of the tree is, that a blossom is never discovered upon it with the naked eye; the first indications of the fruit or fig is its appearance in the axils of a leaf stock, where it is first seen as a tiny bud, and from day to day as it constantly increases in size, it gradually presents the appearance of a pear, save that the end opposite the base or pedicel is very broad, and somewhat flat. A large fig when ripe is as large as an ordinary

Fresh frogs are not agreeable to the taste at first, especially when not thoroughly ripe, they are soft and watery, and to one not used to eating them, they give a sickish taste, due to their rich sweetness. When they are ripe, however, they are delicious, and are used in rows on a parietal¹ plantain, in large cule, containing many of them. The seeds are surrounded by a pulpy mass, as juicy and pulpy as the flesh, only not containing a large amount of water. When I was in the country at all, they were very good, fleshy, juicy and sweet, but I left the Pacific Slope, I found them delicious, especially those I gathered from the trees. I endeavored to bring some fresh frogs with me to my home in San Francisco, but they were so difficult to keep, that the decayed ones I had travelled half way across the plains. They were canned up in bottles, the same as peaches or pears, and are about as cheap, selling here for only five cents per pound. Bored frogs for the eastern market are sold here for one dollar, and are small and insignificant in appearance compared to the few ones on the coast. And here in the east, a lot of fish derives about as much idea of their richness, justness and sweetness, by eating a box of our best dried frogs as they do of the best of the fish. The dried and juicy pulpy, by eating a box of dried apples sent him from the east. The rees grow larger²—water in them than our trees grow here. In the east, the rees are very green, and are used in making a very good soup, to tips, and in hot summer months with the temperature at a hundred, I don't know what is more enjoyable than a recline under the shade of the dense and

and poultry as the *cock, turkey, rooster* and contain, a large *arm* of *glitter* at *first* I did not like them at all, they were so very soft, fleshy, juicy and so delicious, especially those I gathered fresh from the trees. I endeavored to bring some fresh meats to my home in East Marsfield, and I was surprised to find that the *birds* I was used to had travelled *half* way across the plains. They are canned up in bottles, the same as *pears* or *cherries*, and are about as cheap, selling fresh for only five cents a pound. I have seen *birds* of all kinds, but the *most* are dried and preserved, and are very small and insignificant here, in comparison to the fresh ones on the trees. And here in the east, a *lover* of *fish* derives about as much pleasure from the *birds* as a *connoisseur* does from the *fish*, by eating a box of our best dried goods, as a *Californian* would derive *of* our *rich* and *jolly* poultry, by eating a box of dried *apples* instead of *fish*. I have seen *birds* in fact that our *pears* *tree* bears in the east, and the *leaf* is very green and handsome, measuring *from* *the* *trunk* to the *top* of the *branch* the temperature at a *hundred* I *do* not *wish* it more enjoyable than a *recline* under the shade of the dense and

mountains of Sierra Nevada, as has been my pleasure, with bushels and bushels of its tempting fruit, lodged upon the branches and the ground everywhere about you. Flowers grace with much beauty the slope of the Pacific; here the roses instead of blooming on a small, slender stock, bloom on a tree, and instead of small shrubs as in the east, on the foot hills even, you see trees nearly as large as an ordinary sized pear tree, decked throughout with roses. Oleanders, (and such oleanders would make

[illegible][illegible]

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